

Weymouth. Nov 11th 1838.

Dear Sir,

I feel as though the interest I take both in the cause of Peace & that of Abolition will be a sufficient apology for the suggestion I am about to make, & though it may not perhaps meet with your approbation, I am sure that you will be aware that my earnest solicitude for the entire success of both these causes prompts me. I am desirous that the non resistance Society should possess an organ of communication with the public other than the Liberator, and this as well on account of the one cause as the other. I fear that the introduction of non resistance articles into the Liberator will ultimately prove a source of vexation and discord to the Abolitionists and that we shall spend more time in conflict upon this point among ourselves, than is desirable. Upon any thing that is part and parcel of Abolition, I am willing, yes, I am earnestly desirous that the Anti Slavery party should divide, & divide again, if by that means their principles & measures may be maintained in their pristine purity; but it is admitted by all, the doctrines of non resistance are not identical with those of Abolition. I know that these bear collectively upon ~~to~~ those, & thus far, of course, would I have them discussed together, but not further unless the majority of real Abolitionists wished it so to be. I know that if half the Liberator were devoted to Peace & non resistance, you could with the most perfect accuracy assert that you were not connecting the two causes, but a great number of the Abolitionists are not candid enough or clear minded enough to see this, and many others are so opposed to ultra peace views that they are unwilling to do any thing that may even insidiously tend to their support. I hope that after the elections & their consequent excitements, are over, we shall be at lies me to renew our moral efforts

with greater vigour, and to labour more faithfully for the purification of the New England Churches. Our Abolitionists have generally been willing to pledge themselves to vote for no man who was not an Abolitionist at heart, and I hope that ere long they will be ready to say they will hear no man preach who is not the same. Now to produce this result, it is absolutely necessary that whatever there is of genuine Abolition among us, should be concentrated on this work, and we must, if possible, avoid giving those ministers who are averse to the cause of the slave the opportunity of weakening our hands and drawing the attention of the public from themselves, by allegations that we are contending for the abolition of government rather than that of anti-slavery.

Not less do I think this arrangement expedient on account of its influence on the non-resistance cause. This subject cannot fully be gone into, justice cannot be done to while the Liberator is the only organ it possesses. The non-resistance people feel as though it were a sort of sufferance only, by which they have a peevish in the Liberator & do not there feel perfectly at liberty to bring forward their views there. This, at least, would be the case with myself.

I presume also that this prevents many fair minded opposers who are Abolitionists from bringing forward their objections. Now could you not edit a monthly paper devoted to the Non-resistance cause, particularly if Mr Johnson should remain in Boston, without interfering with your duties as Editor of the Liberator? Very many I think, who do not wish to have the cause introduced into the Liberator would be anxious to take a paper wholly devoted to it. I think in Weymouth 12 or 15 subscribers might be obtained, & I presume that where ever Mr Wright lectures he might obtain a large number as you would, of course, have the subscription as low as would consist with prudence.

Is this a visionary or impracticable plan, or is it founded on a principle you disapprove?

The idea has originated wholly with myself, & I am uncertain whether it will be approved by any one, but I have felt so anxious that the cause of strife may be avoided that I would make any sacrifice save one of principle to present it. I know you will excuse the liberty I take in so freely bringing forward my views.

very respectfully and truly,
your friend
Anne W. Weston.

The above was written on Sunday evening. Since then Messrs Phelps & St Clair have been at Weymouth & their incidental remarks have served to increase my fears that the Liberator will be seriously injured ~~and~~ unless some thing be done to prevent it. I desire the Liberator & the Liberator only to be the organ of the A.S. party in Mass. Many plans have been on foot for its subversion, but have failed because they had no basis. I fear you are furnishing one if the Liberator becomes a Peace paper in part.

in haste. A. W. W.

William Lloyd Garrison.

Nassau Court,
Boston.